



United States Senator  
**Richard Shelby**  
REPORTS TO ALABAMA



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**CIA SHOULD REMAIN TRUE TO ITS MISSION**

Like all Americans, I welcomed last week's agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, which has the potential to bring the Middle East closer to a lasting peace. But, as Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I am concerned about the expanding role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the implementation of the peace agreement, in particular the extensive publicity that has moved this clandestine agency out of the shadows and into the spotlight.

While I commend the CIA for its critical behind-the-scenes role in brokering cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security agencies in recent years, I believe it is ill-advised to allow the CIA to be inserted in the middle of a bitter dispute in a region littered with the bones of armies and peacemakers alike. In fact, I believe that CIA employees and their families may be put at greater risk. Certainly, agents accept an element of risk as they carry out their duties within the agency to protect and serve American interests; however, the Clinton Administration should not increase that risk by rais-

ing the visibility of their mission. This enhanced visibility threatens the cover of CIA agents and thus may reduce the CIA's ability to meet its many other critical responsibilities.

Further, this new mission places CIA officers in an unfamiliar role requiring them to act as diplomat, judge, jury, prosecutor, and defense attorney---all in addition to their primary responsibilities as intelligence gatherers. Especially troubling is the notion of requiring CIA officers to report on the success or failure of policies they are expected to implement. Such a practice threatens the integrity of intelligence reporting all together.

Lastly, should the agreement sour, the CIA will be even more vulnerable to mission creep imposed by policy makers desperate to salvage a faltering process. The CIA could easily become the fall-guy if the pact were to collapse over security issues, despite the fact that it is the Israelis and Palestinians responsibility to make the agreement work.

I am not alone in my concerns about using the CIA in this regard.

Many current and former CIA officers have expressed similar concerns.

While Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet and others, pointing to past CIA support for U. S.-Soviet arms control negotiations and cease-fire and border monitoring, have argued that this role for the CIA is not new, this is a far more dangerous mission. This mission will not be conducted from a conference room in Geneva or from a safe distance through satellite imagery. Rather, this mission would take place primarily through human intelligence, men and women in the alleys of Gaza and the West Bank.

Congress and the Intelligence Committee have the responsibility to review the fine print of the new CIA role, including the policy and legal framework and the security, counter-intelligence and resource implications of the Agreement. Whether the CIA or some other U. S. Government organization is best-suited to perform the new missions assigned in this Agreement will be the focus of deliberations in the coming weeks.

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